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CBC NEWSLETTER

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 45 July/August 1999 Number 4

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Charleston Meeting Update

Be there September 24-26

Wow! September is almost here. We have a lot planned for y'all when you get here. Hope that we have something for everyone. We will be running four trips a day into Magnolia Gardens, thanks to Fernada Hastie. They are listed as A and B on the Field Trip Schedule and both will meet at the snack bar then split up in two groups. Will Post will be operating a banding station at Dill Plantation that we will be able to take part in. There will be a lot of sparrows, warblers, and buntings. If anyone is working with children teaching about nature, then you will want to be on Teddy's trip to Folly Beach. She will have handouts for everyone. The covered pontoon boat trip to Capers Island with Giff Beaton has been filled.

Tom Blagden will be our speaker on Friday night. He is a nature photographer and writer. If you have not seen his work before, you are in for a treat.

Bob and **Martha Sargent** will be speaking on winter hummingbirds on Saturday night. There have been exciting sightings of hummingbirds in the Carolinas in recent winters, and the Sargents will share with us what they have learned from their banding activities in the southeast.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the Airport Holiday Inn with all meetings in their meeting room. Cost, including a full breakfast buffet, is $75 + 12% tax. Alternate nearby lodging is the Travelodge which has the same management. Cost is $49.10 + 12% tax. Both motels are just off I-26 exit 211-A and share the same parking lot.

Board Recommends Dues Increase and By-Laws Amendments

The Executive Committee of the Carolina Bird Club will ask members to reorganize membership categories and approve new dues levels at the fall meeting in Charleston, S.C. Club by-laws require that members approve dues changes and by-laws amendments.

The by-laws amendments would reduce the number of categories of membership from eight to four. CBC members would be asked to approve dues amounts for the four categories, as follows:

Individuals and non-profit organizations, $20.

Sustaining members and business entities, $25.

Contributing members, $50.

Life members, $400 (payable in four annual payments of $100).

The by-laws change would amend Article II, paragraph 2 and 4, to read:

"2. Memberships are available in the following dues-bearing categories:

a. Individual
b. Sustaining
c. Contributing
d. Life

Non-profit organizations may enroll at the Individual member dues level and business entities may enroll at the Sustaining member dues level, but neither is entitled to vote on items submitted to CBC members for action.

4. The dues schedule (the frequency and amounts to be collected) shall be established by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership. The Executive Committee may recommend terms and conditions of a discount for additional individual memberships in the same household when the mailing of additional publications is not required."

Article III, paragraph 1 of the by-laws would also be amended to read:

"1. On items presented to CBC members for action, one vote may be cast for each paid-up membership in the following categories:

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Reservation deadline is August 23. Make reservations using the form provided in the Newsletter or call Holiday Inn at (843) 744-1621 or Travelodge at (843) 744-7388.

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CBC Newsletter

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CBC Rare Bird Alert

(704) 332-BIRD

What Makes Slick-Barked Pines Slick?

by Joshua A. Lee

Examine the trunk of a large southern hard pine. You'll note that the tree is clothed in broad, smooth plates of light brown bark. Timber men describe such trees as "slick-barked." Bark on pine saplings is darker and occurs as narrow ridges that are more or less triangular in cross section.

Bark, the protective "skin" of a tree, forms when the phloem, the outer conductive tissue of the stele, becomes suberized and pushed outward as trunk diameter increases. As growth rate slows, around 60 to 70 years in most hard pines, the plates of bark become larger at their bases, and the outer layers loosen and rapidly begin to slough off. The result is an increasingly smooth trunk surface.

Various natural phenomena combine to "slicken" pine trees. Wind and rain loosen and remover layers of bark. Often after a brisk gale strips of bark can be found strung out in the lee of a pine trunk. Raccoons and squirrels loosen much bark as these animals climb and frisk about tree trunks. Certain woodpeckers also pry loose a lot of bark.

There are three species of maturing pines in my yard: loblolly *(Pinus taeda)*, slash *(Pinus elliotti)* and longleaf *(Pinus palustris)*. Judging from ring counts of pines of similar trunk diameter, all are in the 40 to 60 age class. Seven species of woodpeckers have been observed in my yard, but only two, pileated *(Dryocopus pileatus)* and red-bellied *(Melanerpes carolinus)* work the bark of pine trunks.

At all seasons, numerous insects lurk beneath the bark of mature pines, and presumably woodpeckers remove bark in search of these items of potential prey. A Pileated Woodpecker starts at ground level and works upward circling the trunk. I once gathered a small plastic paint bucket full of bark from around a single large slash pine that had been worked by a "cock of the woods," as local people call the Pileated Woodpecker. Red-bellied Woodpeckers don't make the bark fly like their larger cousins, but these birds make their contributions. *118 West Lake Drive, Sylvania, GA 30467*

CBC Web Site

http://members.aol.com/cbirdclub

Backyard Birding

with Frances J. Nelson

July 10, 1999. We're back from Texas earlier than we expected, but we are back. We didn't have much birding excitement in Texas because we weren't there long enough, but we did have some good birds in our "backyards" along the way. Our first night out was in Lebanon, TN, where we saw a Baltimore Oriole, martins, Barn Swallows, an Indigo Bunting and a Summer Tanager. Another camper said he had seen a Red-headed Woodpecker, but we didn't see it. The oriole was nesting in a small cottonwood tree beside our campsite. I kept hearing something that sounded similar to the *pittichuck* of the Summer Tanager, but it was the baby oriole. We saw both an adult male and female near the nest, but the male was the only one who approached with food. We did not see the young ones. We marveled again at how a bird a bright as the male oriole could disappear in the leaves of the cottonwood. The nest, too, was difficult to see. If we hadn't heard the babies, we would have never seen the nest.

Our next night was in Little Rock, AR, where we shared a campsite with a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and watched a Red-bellied Woodpecker feed its baby. This nest was in a dead limb in yet another cottonwood tree. Again, we would have never seen the nest if the baby hadn't drawn our attention by hollering for food. This time the "holler" was a high-pitched squeal similar to a Black and White Warbler. I kept looking for the b&w and saw an adult woodpecker fly to the nest. Only then did I realize the squeaky wheel was a baby woodpecker. We also watched a mockingbird chase a squirrel by swooping down and pecking the squirrel's tail. The squirrel would stop and flip around as if daring the bird to continue with his harassment. The mocker would back off until the squirrel turned back around and continued his journey. Then the mocker would go after the squirrel again. This continued for a pretty good distance, and finally, the mockingbird decided the squirrel was far enough away and quit chasing him. We also saw a fledging Brown Thrasher whose parent was trying to get the baby to fly from the ground to a low tree. The baby just stood there begging for food and not attempting to fly.

The bird we missed in Little Rock was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. We usually see one at the campground which is located just west of the city, but this year the bird was not around. We did see one, however, south of the city on our way to Oklahoma. We'd decided to go a more rural route rather than the direct I-40, but we didn't get completely out of Little Rock before someone passing by indicated a problem with our camper. Sure enough, the wheel bearing was shot. While we waited for the wheel to be fixed we saw our first scissor-tail of the year. They are such wonderful birds, this state bird of CJ's home state Oklahoma, and they are one of the reasons we look forward to going to Oklahoma each summer.

Because our camper wasn't ready until late afternoon, we didn't make it to Oklahoma City that day, but stopped at a secluded state park near Joplin, AR. It was a little spooky--dark and no other campers around. I was a little nervous about walking to the shower in the pitch black, so CJ, my hero, walked with me and waited for me to take a shower. His wait was not in vain. He watched a Screech Owl swooping in and feeding on a luna moth, a spectacle I missed completely.

Once we reached our destination in OK, CJ's sister's house in NW Oklahoma City, we discovered a House Wren nesting in its usual spot in Betty's backyard. She has a small bird house which the (a) House Wren uses every year. The tree in her front yard was inundated with a crow family, parents and two young, who made such a racket that we could hardly hear the wren singing. When we tired of watching the crows and wrens, we could look up and see egrets, great, snowy, and cattle, flying over because my sister-in-law lives relatively close to a rookery--near enough to see the birds flying every day, but not close enough to smell the not-too-pleasant aroma of the nesting grounds.

On our way to Texas, we stopped at a Texas State Park where we shared our campsite with a roadrunner and another Yellow-billed Cuckoo. We saw a tarantula crossing the road as we entered the campground, but we did not see one close to us, thank goodness.

Our final stop before coming home was in the mountains in Burnsville, NC, where we spent several days with friends. We found a Chipping Sparrow's nest with three babies in the grapevine and saw a scarlet tanager, a rare bird for us, but the crowning species was the hummer. We counted thirty flitting in and out and around the four feeders hanging in an apple tree. The birds looked liked bees because so many of them were there. Our friends use five pounds of sugar a week keeping the hummers fed, and for the first time on actual feeders rather than pictures of feeders, we saw five hummer feeding at once. It was wondrous site. We'd sit on the porch and watch the hummers--no movies or tv for us--just show us the birds.

Now we are back home enjoying our hummers, but we have only two, along with goldfinches, Blue Grosbeaks, cardinals, chickadees, titmice, Downy Woodpeckers, Carolina Wrens and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. We also have, but can't say we enjoy, House Finches and cowbirds. We're glad to be back, but we miss the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and the egrets. I guess we can't have it all and have to be satisfied to see the other birds when we travel. Meanwhile, I can always use stories about your birds. My address is still *2061 Ferbow Street, Creedmoor, NC 27522*; phone is *(919) 528-1156* and e-mail is *fnelson@wpo.nccu.edu*. We now have our home e-mail address: cfjn@aol.com

Happy Birding!!!!!!!!!

Drink a Cup of Joe For the Birds

Shade-grown coffee is coffee that is grown in the shade beneath the canopy of forest, a canopy that provides shelter and food for both resident and migratory birds. Most coffee that you buy is grown in ground that was once forest, but that has now been cleared to grow sun coffee, a crop that requires large inputs of fertilizers and pesticides. Buying shade-grown coffee helps provide habitat for millions of birds that would otherwise have no place to live. Studies in Mexico and Colombia found 97% fewer birds in sun coffee than in shade coffee.

(continued on page 8)

What is That I Hear Now?

by Judy Walker

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon. In the mid 70s, lovely blue sky dotted with puffy clouds. Yes, perfect weather to be out in the yard. After all it had been nearly six weeks since I had been able to get out because of back surgery. Being outside listening and watching the birds in and around the yard would do wonders for a recuperating body. So there I stood pot and plant in hand drinking in the sound of baby birds.

If you think this sounds like an idyllic spring afternoon you would be as wrong as I was about the sound of baby birds. It was the Sunday **after** Thanksgiving, November 29, but even for the south Mother Nature was a little confused. She thought it was still early October. And I thought I was hearing baby birds. It couldn't be, or could it?

So I stepped out from under my covered patio to investigate this unusual sound among the normal twittering of chickadees, titmice and House Finches. The noise seemed to come from the oak trees above and beyond my herb garden. There were Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the tree which still had most of its leaves. Then they were dive bombed by something about their same size but certainly not their same aerial capabilities. No, this was something very different. "On, my gosh," I gasped. "It's a hummer."

I was both astonished and delighted. I finally had a Rufous Hummingbirdto add to my yard (I had been extremely jealous of Harriet Whitsett's and Taylor Piephoff's records in their yards.). I ran into the house to get my feeder which had been taken down a while ago since I couldn't fill it regularly. I prayed silently that I hadn't scared the critter off. As I rushed out the door again with the feeder in one hand I grabbed my binoculars and several field guides. I was going to make sure of the ID before I called Taylor.

I hung the feeder in the small crab apple tree on the edge of my herb garden and sat on the stoop to wait. Immediately the bird zoomed in, not to the feeder but to my Pineapple Sage which was in full bloom along with the salvia and geraniums which had not been replaced with pansies because of my surgery. Of course, I thought that's why it was here. All of the red flowers had caught its attention.

I focused in on it and was almost immediately disappointed. It didn't look right for a rufous. Not coppery enough even for a female which I was sure it was since I hadn't seen a gorget. It was only a very late and confused ruby-throat. But still something wasn't right there either. It was too big - bigger than the ruby-crowns and it made a lot of noise!? I had never heard a ruby-throat make so much noise. And then it turned towards me in the sunlight and several feathers flashed fuscia at me. Definitely not a ruby. But what?

Although the bird was very easy to see when it was in the sage it didn't stay there very long. After a few drinks it would dash up into the oaks to chase kinglets. Then it would sit on an exposed perch for several minutes swinging its head back and forth making high squeaky noises - sort-a like a kinglet or waxwings or chickadee. More like all of those rolled into one.

So it went for nearly an hour and a half - flowers, trees, chase, perch. While it was chasing I would pour over the pages of my National Geographic and Peterson's. Yes, no, maybe? *Selasphorus* hummers were the most common hummers seen in this area this time of the year. It must be *selasphorus*, right? Right!?

I finally gave up and called Taylor. Ten minutes later as he turned the corner of the house the bird sat down at the feeder for the first time. It obviously liked what it found since it sat there for several minutes and let us get a long close look. I was only about 15 feet from the feeder. I knew I had hit pay dirt when the bird darted up into the trees and the first thing Taylor said was "Do you have a video camera?"

Of course I didn't but I ran to the neighbors to borrow theirs. "Okay, so what do you think it is?" I asked and held my breath. His answer - a female or immature Anna's Hummingbird. I couldn't believe my ears. I had not overlooked the bird in the books. In fact I had kept coming back to it but then dismissed it because the Anna's doesn't migrate. It's not suppose to leave the west coast not even to go to Central or South America. And one had never been seen in North Carolina! For once the rule, if you think its rare, its not, failed me. And I couldn't have been happier.

After a few unsuccessful attempts to video the bird at the feeder I was able to get some decent shots. Meanwhile, Taylor was on the phone to several other local birders to get them here for their opinions. David and Marsha Wright and Heathy Walker showed up with a scope and a video camera with a zoom. But it was getting late, and after all it was the end of November so the sun was going down early. As the sun faded we watched the bird hawk mosquitoes, do a sky dance, take a last sip from the feeder and then zip past us out of the yard for places unknown with a loud emphatic squeak.

Would it return or was it a flash in the pan? Would anyone believe us since we couldn't get a good video of the bird's gorget in the late afternoon light?

After everyone left, I dug through my tapes. The bird's sound was so distinctive. In fact that was how we kept track of it in the yard when it wasn't at the feeder. I finally found my *Western Birding by Ear* tapes and sure enough the Anna's was included on the tape. I only had to play it once to know that the jewel which had been zipping around my yard like it owned it was indeed an Anna's Hummingbird. No other hummer comes close. I also knew the last official week of my convalescence wasn't going to be all that calm and quiet if the bird showed up in the morning.

I was up before light just in case the bird slipped in early. It didn't. In fact it didn't show up until 8:30 AM nearly an hour and a half after first light. That was a very long hour and a half. When it finally sat down for its first morning drink it had no idea of the rather bizarre sequence of events it set into motion.

Taylor and I started calling members of the Records Committee to see if any of them could get here ASAP. I must admit Eric Dean has his employees well trained.

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Field Trip Schedule
CBC Fall Meeting, Charleston, SC
September 24-26, 1999

Thursday, September 23 - Birding on your own (site list at desk).

Friday, September 24

Half-day Morning - 7 a.m. departure

Trip #	Name of Trip
1	Capers Island (leaves 6:45 a.m. - **trip full**)
2	Patriots Pt., Breech Inlet, Ft. Moultrie
3	Folly Beach
4	Dill Plantation
5A	Magnolia Gardens
6B	Magnolia Gardens

Half-day Afternoon - 1:00 p.m. departure

Trip #	Name of Trip
7	Folly Beach
8	Hoover Road
9	Caw-Caw Plantation
10	Dill Plantation
11A	Magnolia Gardens
12B	Magnolia Gardens
13	Butterfly Trip

All-day trips - 7:00 a.m. departure

Trip #	Name of Trip
14	Marington Plantation
15	Tibwin Plantation
16	Francis Marion & Moores Landing

Saturday, September 25

Half-day Morning - 7:00 a.m. departure

Trip #	Name of Trip
17	Capers Island (leaves 6:45 a.m. - **trip full**)
18	Folly Beach
19	Folly Beach - Educators
20	Patriots Pt., Breech Inlet, Ft. Moultrie
21A	Magnolia Gardens
22B	Magnolia Gardens
23	Caw-Caw Plantation
24	Dill Plantation
25	Hoover Road

Half-day Afternoon - 1:00 p.m. departure

Trip #	Name of Trip
26	Folly Beach
27	Dill Plantation
28	Hoover Road
29A	Magnolia Gardens
30B	Magnolia Gardens

All-day trips - 7:00 a.m. departure

Trip #	Name of Trip
31	Medway Plantation
32	Tibwin Plantation
33	Marington Plantation
34	Francis Marion, Moores Landing
35	Butterfly Trip

Fall Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Butterfly Trip: (Friday: 1/2 Day, #13; Saturday: Full day #35)
James Island, Patriots Pt. and other location that have a lot of butterflies will be on the agenda.

Capers Island Boat Trip: (1/2 day. Friday #1; Saturday #17)
Trip lasts 3 1/2 hours with the boat ride around 15 minutes. This is an uninhabited island with a fresh and salt water pond. Migrants that follow the coast will surely be here. Waders and shorebirds will be on the beach. Bring a bag for shells. There will be plenty of photo ops so you may want to bring a camera. **(Both trips are full)** 40 minute drive *

Caw -Caw Plantation: (1/2 day. Friday #9; Saturday #23)
This was call the Tea Farm. The Charleston County Parks has changed the name and added a visitor's center and trails. Marvin Boatknight from the Park Commission will lead the trips here. There are pine and hardwood forest, marsh, rice fields, dikes, ponds, meadows and the Wallace River. With this much variety the birding should be good. 25 minute drive

Dill Plantation: (1/2 day. Friday #4, #10; Saturday #24, #27)
This is owned by the Charleston Museum as a wildlife refuge work station. Located on the Stono River, it has a Civil War battery, several ponds. open fields, woods and farming plots. Will Post will be operating a bird banding station for the two days that we are there. We will take part in that. We will find warblers, buntings, flycatchers, sparrows as well as waders and shorebirds. 25 minute drive *

Folly Beach: (1/2 day. Friday #3, #7; Saturday #18, #26)
Ahhh! Folly Beach--a refreshing breeze on a hot fall day. On the beach you can find waders, shorebirds, gulls and terns. Northern Gannets are not uncommon. Along the trees there are warblers, buntings, flycatchers and other migrants.
35 minute drive

Fall Meeting Field Trip Descriptions (continued)

Folly Beach - Educators: (Saturday: 1/2 day #19)
Beside the regular trips, Teddy Shuler will be leading a trip for educators to Folly Beach. If you have anything to do with teaching children about nature then her trip is for you.

Francis Marion, Moores Landing: (Full day. Friday #16; Saturday #34)
We will concentrate on the Ion Swamp area of the forest. This area has a diverse habitat that provides cover and nesting for a wide range of birds including Kentucky, Swainson's, Hooded, Prothonotary and Black-throated Green Warblers. Kestrels have been seen with young there also. This time of year we will find migrants, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrow.
40 minute drive

Hoover Road: (1/2 day. Friday: #8; Saturday #25, #28)
This is a trip into a different section of the Francis Marion Forest. It is located off Highway 41 in the Cainhoy area. The primary target bird will be the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.
25 minute drive *

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens: (1/2 day. Friday #5A, 6B, #11A, #12B; Saturday #21A, 22B, 29A, 30B)
Magnolia covers over 500 acres along the Ashley River and serves as a wildlife refuge. We will be birding in the gardens, old rice fields, and the Audubon Swamp. A great place for migrating warblers, ducks, herons, egrets and gallinules. If there is something different to be found it will be here. Fernana Hastie provides these trips at no cost to the club. In addition to birds there is a nature train ride ($5). This is a 45 minute narrated train tour that runs throughout the wildlife nature area. Also there is the plantation house tour ($6). This is a 30 minute guided tour of the plantation home which is filled with early American antiques.
20 minute drive

Marington Plantation: (Full day. Friday # 14; Saturday #33)
This is a plantation in Goose Creek owned by the Navy. It is a nature preserve with miles of trails and roads. There are wooded areas, ponds, a creek, open fields and a horse stable. We will see migrant passerines, shorebirds and waders. 25 minute drive

Medway Plantation: (Full day. Saturday #31)
This is a private residence on the Cooper River with a lot of ponds, marshes, dikes, fields and woods. We should have a good selection of birds here. 30 minute drive

Patriots Point, Breech Inlet, Ft. Moultrie: (1/2 day. Friday #2; Saturday #20)
All three locations will be covered depending on tide and bird activity. Expect to see a wide variety of birds: migrating passerines, migrating hawks, waders, shorebirds, gulls and terns. Walking is easy and minimal at all locations. Ft. Moultrie has been a hawk watch station for several years and numbers coming through are tremendous at times, especially in the falcon family.
15 minute drive to first stop

Tibwin Plantation: (Full day. Friday #15; Saturday # 32)
This is a large tract of land that has every type of habitat that you can imagine. Salt and fresh water ponds, mud flats, marsh, Intercoastal Waterway, lots of dikes, flowing spring of drinkable water, forest and meadows. Migrating warblers, buntings, flycatchers and woodpeckers should be plentiful.
45 minute drive *

* indicates no restrooms

What is That? (continued)

He wasn't there but they knew exactly what to ask and tracked him down to let him know. At first we hesitated to putit on Carolinabirds. I was not hooked up at home so Taylor would have to get the message out. He didn't have to tell me when he posted it to the listserv. Within the hour (which was now noon) I was receiving phone calls.

Bert Fisher seemed the most relieved to hear my voice as he hastily identified himself and asked for directions. He was the second to call. However, he had not received the news via the listserv. Instead Eric Dean had sent him a cryptic email saying he (Eric) would see him (Bert) tomorrow in Charlotte for their 380th North Carolina bird (I think that was the number). Bert had no idea what bird or where in Charlotte since he didn't receive the listserv at work. Still worse, he was scheduled to fly out of town in the morning. As the story goes, he frantically called Leto to tell her to come and pick him up because they were going to Charlotte immediately. She was in Raleigh. He was in Durham. As hechased down an internet connection he dragged a colleague and birding buddy, Les Todd, out of his office to join the chase. They all piled into the car and made it to my place in less than 2.5 hours. I think they really took a low flying jet.

Meanwhile back in the yard local birders began to arrive. Katherine Higgins had taken the bus into work so she didn't have a car when the call came. However, she convinced a friend and birder to drive over to get a look. Then out-of-towners began to arrive. Bert and his crew arrived about 3:30 and Derb Carter arrived shortly thereafter without binoculars. He had been in meetings all morning and didn't get our message until almost 2 PM. He, too, was going out of town the next morning and wanted to make sure he saw the bird.

Bob Sargent also called in the early afternoon to verify what he hadread on Carolinabirds. I gave him all the details. He concluded that it probably was an Anna's, but what he was most curious about was whether it was banded. It seems that an immature female Anna's had shown up in Atlanta on Thanksgiving and he had banded it on Friday, two days before I discoverd this one. However, the bird was not seen again after the banding. Could this be the same bird? No, the bird was not banded and it was a male. (Sometime during the day someone noticed one spot of pink on the head of the bird so it became a he.) He wanted to come up and band this one if it stayed around for a while and after most of those who wanted see it had a chance.

The bird was extremely cooperative throughout the afternoon making an appearance every time someone new arrived. He would sit at the feeder, flit through the trees and chase off intruding kinglets and yellow-rumps. Just about dusk he came in for a last drink and zipped out of the yard just as he had the night before.

It was about 6:15 AM the next morning when I put the coffee on and heard voices in my driveway. I looked out my kitchen window and there stood Eric and Celia Dean, Gene Howe, Ricky Davis, Lamar and Ashe and a few others I can't remember right now. Most of them were from the eastern part of the state and had started driving between 2 AM and 3 AM to get here before light. I had told them not to worry since the bird was a late sleeper. It probably won't show up until 8:30 AM. But no, they didn't listen. As they stood and waiting nearly two hours in the cool morning air my neighbors watched in amazement. The cul-de-sac looked like a used car lot of SUVs. Then right on cue at 8:38 AM he buzzed in right over their heads to feed on maple tree blossoms. Great looks were had by all. He even performed some mating displays for us.

The bird continued to provide intriguing and delightful performances. John Wright mysteriously came down with a flu on Wednesday which could only be cured by a drive to Charlotte (from Greenville, NC). He arrived at 6:45 AM to find the bird on the feeder. He could have turned around and been back at school for his afternoon classes but of course this was now a social event, and he stayed to kibitz with others who had driven in. Roger McNeil, who just happened to be in town on business, changed his flight back to Kansas City in order to check out the bird. He gets the prize for "coming" the furthest. My personal favorite story was a gentleman from Columbia who called. He was attending a work seminar on the other side of Charlotte and had a hour for lunch. Could he come over to see the bird? I told him it would take at least half an hour to get here, but he was welcome to try. He pulled up about 12:15; walked down the drive to the patio, and the bird appeared at the feeder (he had been absent for over an hour). He actually had two great looks at the bird in less than 15 minutes. Then he got back in the car and wasn't late for his next meeting.

So went a marvelous week. I literally spent every daylight hour out on my patio keeping track of the bird and entertaining old and new friends. The weather was perfect - sunny and in the mid 70s everyday. I even managed to get a tan in the process, which was a little difficult to explain when I finally went back to work. The Charlotte Observer did a front page story on the bird. Ironically, Bruce Henderson, who wrote the story, was the only person who did not get to see the bird. I was also interviewed by our local NPR station which was aired in the middle of "All Things Considered." I guess this was my fifteen minutes of fame and I have to admit it was fun.

Of course, every morning I held my breathe until the winged jewel appeared at the feeder. We all assumed the little fellow would move on. However, his behavior indicated he had set up territory. So he stayed and stayed and stayed. With a little help of a heat lamp and extra protein in his feeder he managed to survive three ice storms, several nights of below freezing temperatures and a tremendous Janurary thunderstorm which blew apart one of the trees in my yard.

As spring progressed I got up earlier and earlier to make sure he had fresh nectar every morning. After he appeared for his first morning drink, he would often come and perch on the dead hydrangea stalks right in front of my bedroom window. At times he was only a foot or so from my nose preening.

And of course as the days progressed into weeks and weeks into months the color on his head spread. He was definitely coming into his own. When the Sargent's banded him in December they indicated he was a very young bird born perhaps in July or early August. So I guess I helpes him through his adolescence.

As the days got warmer again his noise making became more persistent, almost

(continued on next page)

New River Field Trip

(Editor's Note: On June 5 and 6 Will Cook, James Coman and Susan Campbell led a CBC Summer Field Trip to the New River area in North Carolina's northern mountains. On June 7, Steve Shultz of Cary, NC, one of the participants, posted the following message on Carolinabirds.)

My wife, Tracy, and I attended our first Carolina Bird Club field trip this past weekend. on Saturday we visited sites along the New River in Ashe and Allegheny counties in North Carolina and Grayson County in Virginia. On Sunday we travelled down the Blue Ridge Parkway from Carroll County, Virginia to Julian Price Park just outside of Blowing Rock, NC. The trip leaders did a great job, leading us to splendid views of some of the more sought-after mountain breeders.

A few personal highlights were:

* wonderful views of Cerulean Warblers, male and female, at or just above eye-level in Carroll County, VA;

* a very cooperative singing Kentucky Warbler just down from the Ceruleans;

* four species of Empid flycatchers (although getting one to sing while you were looking at it proved rather difficult!);

* several male Bobolinks challlenging each other for the only perch in an expansive grassy meadow;

* a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird on a nest (one of several species of birds we found on nests including bothe orioles and a Yellow-throated Vireo);

* a very pleasant Warbling Vireo that stayed around long enough for everyone to get great looks.

Thanks again to the trip leaders for a job well done.

If you have considered joining a CBC field trip, but have never gone, by all means go! Hope you have as good a time as we did!

What is That? (continued)

plaintive. Then on March 3 he came in for his morning drink as usual. Then he preened in front of the window. The sun caught his gorget, which flashed a full halo of fuscia pink around his head. Only the longer outer feathers were missing. He had indeed come of age. He zipped around the yard that morning, disappeared around midday, as was his custom, but did not return for his evening nightcap. The winds seemed to be blowing in the right direction so I can only assume and hope his urge to find a mate took him on his long journey back the way he had come over three months before.

Friends and neighbors have already started asking if I think he might come back this fall. I tell I don't think so. However, one never knows. My Pineapple Sage will be waiting for him if he does.

Cup of Joe (continued)

Counter Culture Coffee in Durham, NC, is a distributor of bird-friendly, shade-grown coffee. This is the coffee company recommended by Mark Johns, NC Coordinator of Partners in Flight. They have excellent coffee in a variety of kinds, including decaf, and are competitive in quality and price with other gourmet coffees. Besides getting a delicious coffee, and protecting bird habitats, they also provide an opportunity to raise money for bird clubs. Call Counter Culture Coffee toll free at 1-888-238-5282 for further information.

Song Bird Coffee is ABA's brand of shade-grown coffee that is roasted and marketed by the Thanksgiving Coffee Company of Fort Bragg, CA. Song Bird Coffee is available at Wild Birds Unlimited stores or you can order through the ABA Web site www.americanbirding.org/conssbcofl.htm or call Thanksgiving Coffee Coffee at 1-800-648-6491.

Dues Increase (continued)

a. Individual
b. Sustaining
c. Contributing
d. Life"

Current life memberships would be unaffected by the new dues structure. Persons who have begun paying toward life memberships would be encouraged to complete their $250 payment as soon as possible. New dues levels would take effect for the year 2000.

The changes would eliminate student and family memberships. However, additional members of the same household would be able to join at a discount. Affiliate clubs, libraries and institutions would qualify for non-profit organization dues. Patron would become "contributing," a stylistic change.

The dues changes are intended to meet the costs of the club's on-going activities that directly produce no revenue: publications, postage, insurance, administration, records committees, and the birders' hot line. Other activities are expected to sustain themselves from fees and sales charges.

The club has one part-time employee, the headquarters secretary, who works from her home and uses the N.C. Museum of Science's mailing address.

Income from dues and life membership endowments has fallen short of meeting the costs of non-revenue activities each of the past three years. In 1998 that income totaled $18,995, while non-revenue activities cost $24,173.

Dues payments and contributions to the Carolina Bird Club qualify as tax-deductible.

Questions about the proposals may be directed to CBC President Len Pardue, 16 The Circle, Asheville, NC 28801; telephone (828) 254-7618; or e-mail (eljeep@mindspring.com).

Meeting Registration Form
CBC Fall Meeting, September 24-26, 1999

Name(s)_____
(list each name for name tags)
Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone (_____) _____ (day) (_____) _____ (evening) e-mail _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____ for ____member registrations at $10 each and ____nonmember registrations at $20 each. Registration at the meeting will be $20 for members or nonmembers.

Field Trip Registration

In the form below please indicate by Trip Number your choice of field trips. If registering for more than one person write the first name with each choice. Note that Trip #1 and Trip #17 required advance registration and have been filled.

Friday (morning or all-day)	Friday (afternoon)	Saturday (morning or all-day)	Saturday (afternoon)

Mail with check to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc.**, PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Motel Reservation Form
Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting, September 24-26, 1999

Name(s)_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please reserve a room for me at the Carolina Bird Club meeting rate. Arrival_____ Departure_____
My check for the first night's lodging is enclosed. Holiday Inn ($75 + 12% tax), Travelodge ($49.10 + 12% tax).

Mail with deposit to **Holiday Inn**, 6099 Fain St, Charleston, SC 29406 or call (843) 744-1621 or **Travelodge**, 6059 Fain St, Charleston, SC 29406 or call (843) 744-7388.

Membership Application and Order Form

Name_____ Address_____
(If family membership, give name of each person included.)

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Tel., ( )_____ ( )_____
(home) (business)

E-mail address_____

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated:

____Individual ($15)
____Family ($20)
____Student ($10)
____Library/Institution ($15)
____Affiliate Club ($20)
____Contributing ($35)
____Patron ($50)
____Life ($250)

Send Materials Indicated:

____CBC Cloth arm patch $2.00 ea.
____CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on) $2.00 ea., $1.75 ea. in quanity
____Checklists 10/$1.75, 25/$5, 50/$9.50, 75/$12.75, 100/$16

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Jeannie Johnson
Murphy, NC

Pat Lipsey
Waynesville, NC

Larry & Peggy Marlin
Statesville, NC

Doug & Anne Meekins
Buxton, NC

Joan Sharpiro
Chapel Hill, NC

Deceased Members

Jere Eggleston
Columbia, SC

Mrs. Wilbur Ormond
Ayden, NC

Happy Birthday! Ventures, Inc.

Ventures Inc. has just celebrated it's first anniversary. It is owned by CBC members Simon Thompson & Roger McNeill. Our Web site www.birdventures.com should be up and running by 1 August - stay tuned.

Space is still available on the following Ventures Trips:

Shorebirding along NC Outer Banks & Pelagic with Brian Patteson (Aug. 26-30)

South of France & Pyrenees (Sept. 1-13)

Galapagos Cruise and Andes (Nov. 20-Dec. 3)

Amazon Rainforest, Peru (Dec. 4-11)

For a complete 1999 and upcoming 2000 Calendar, please contact the Ventures office: Ventures, Inc. Birding & Natural History Tours, PO Box 1095, Skyland, NC 28776; Phone/Fax: (828) 859.0382; e-mail simon@teleplex.net.